

News Release
U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Rhode Island



November 4, 2004



Providence man is charged with weapons offense

**Carlos Gomes, a previously convicted felon allegedly, used a gun
to assault Providence Police officers**

A federal grand jury has charged **Carlos Gomes**, 22, of Providence, with being a felon in possession of a firearm and alleges that Gomes used the gun with intent to murder and that he assaulted law enforcement officers. Providence Police arrested Gomes in January.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente, Thomas Wlodyka, Resident Agent in Charge of the Providence Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and Colonel Dean Esserman, Chief of the Providence Police Department, jointly announced a one-count indictment, which was returned yesterday in U.S. District Court, Providence.

According to the indictment, on January 9, Gomes, who had been previously convicted of a felony, possessed a .35 caliber pistol. The indictment alleges that Gomes used the firearm in connection with an assault to commit murder, that he assaulted official victims, and that he created a "substantial risk of serious bodily injury" by assaulting law enforcement officers.

An indictment is merely an allegation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. The statutory maximum penalty for being a felon in possession of a firearm is ten years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. Federal sentencing is determined on the basis

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of guidelines that rely on such factors as the specific nature of an offense and a defendant's criminal background, if any.

Gomes, of 36 Woodmont Street, Providence, is held at the Rhode Island Adult Correctional Institutions on state charges. He will be brought into U.S. District Court for arraignment on the federal charge.

Providence Police and the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard W. Rose is prosecuting the case under **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes. Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, the U.S. Attorney's Office, working with Providence Police, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, and other agencies, aggressively prosecutes federal firearms offenses in an effort to incarcerate those responsible for gun violence and deter others from committing gun crimes. Since 2001, federal firearms prosecutions in Rhode Island have more than doubled and gun offenders have been sentenced to a total of more than 500 years in federal prison.

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